

ON-FINAL

JULY 2017

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE 507TH AIR REFUELING WING



WING RATES 'EFFECTIVE'

FUTURE AVIATORS TAKE FLIGHT

507TH MOURNS CIVIL ENGINEER

COVER

OKIES PREPARE FOR UEI

Citizen Airmen of the 507th Air Refueling Wing train Feb. 2, 2017, during an exercise held in preparation for the April Unit Effectiveness Inspection, at Glenwood training area in Midwest City, Okla.
(U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Story by Maj. Jon Quinlan

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VICE WING COMMANDER
Col. Dana Nelson

WING COMMAND CHIEF
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VIDEO: Refueling a B-2 Spirit bomber



Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin, 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, refuels a B-2 Spirit bomber June 20, 2017, while in flight on a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Perrin took a timelapse video with his cell phone from the boom pod while refueling the B-2. (U.S. Air Force video/ Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perrin)



Reserve Recruiters



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Flight Chief
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Office (405) 734-5331
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**Tech. Sgt.
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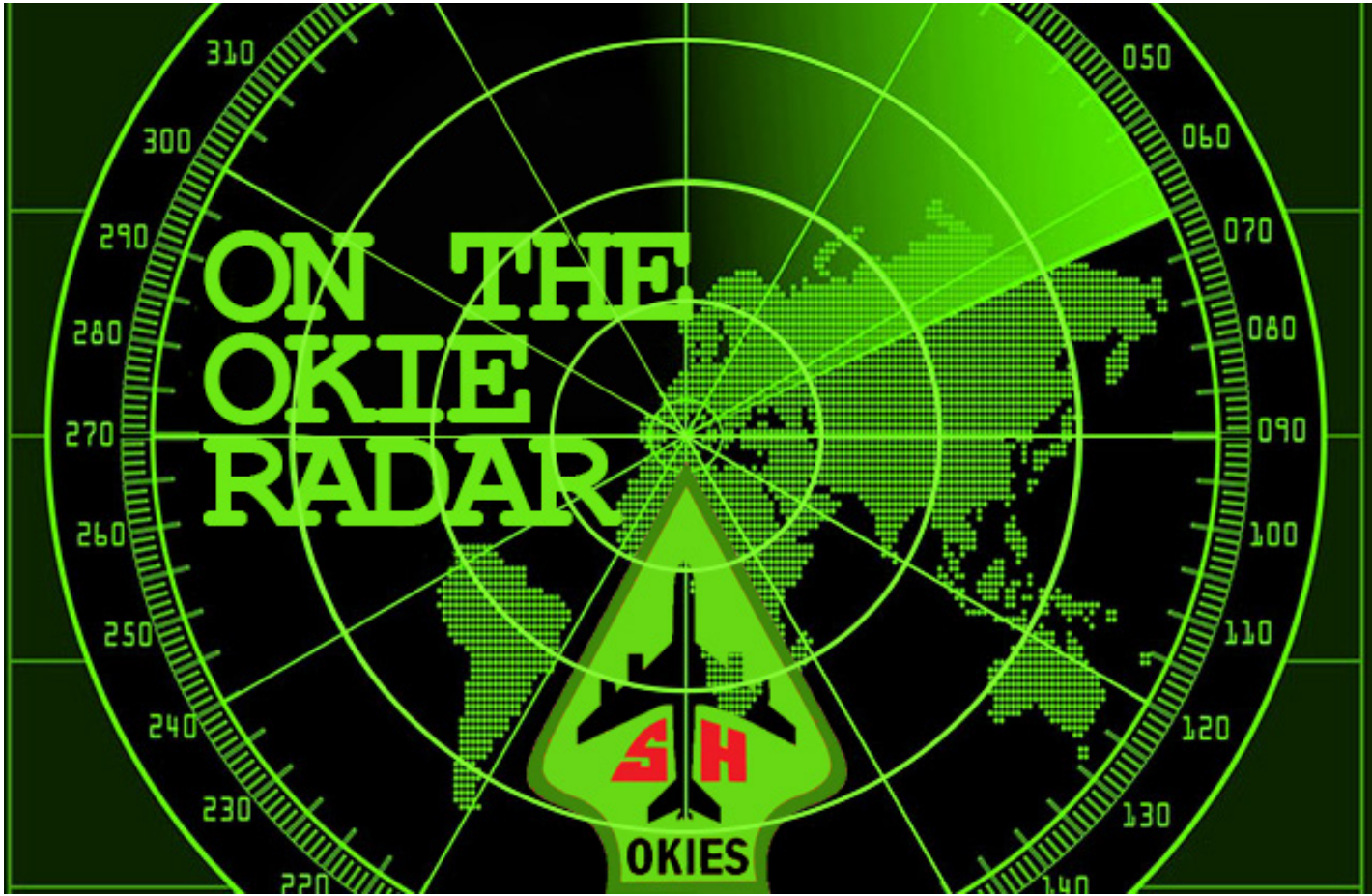
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JULY UTA JULY 8-9 CIVILIAN OF THE QUARTER DUE JUL. 15	OCTOBER UTA OCT. 14-15 ATSO EXERCISE, SAT. & SUN. 3RD QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE OCT. 9
AUGUST UTA AUG. 5-6 ATSO FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING @ 0730 AND 1200, SAT. & SUN. 2ND QUARTERLY AWARDS DUE NLT 1200 AUG. 6 COMMANDER'S CALL @ 1500 BASE THEATER AUG. 6	NOVEMBER UTA NOV. 4-5 GLOBAL THUNDER OPERATION HOLIDAY SPIRIT
SEPTEMBER UTA SEPT. 9-10 A "ROYAL" FAMILY DAY @ 1200 HANGAR 1030 SEP. 9 MILITARY INCENTIVE FLIGHT SEP. 29	DECEMBER UTA DEC. 2-3 JANUARY UTA JAN. 6-7 FEBRUARY UTA FEB. 3-4 MARCH UTA MAR. 3-4 Do you have an event to add? Contact us at 507arw.pa2@us.af.mil



A Royal FAMILY DAY

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, @ 12:00 p.m. in Hangar 1030

Featuring:

Food trucks \$

Refreshments \$

Snow Cones \$

Face Paint \$

Static Aircraft Displays

Live DJ

Car Show

Glitter Tattoos \$

Jail \$

Cake Walk \$

Snag-a-Fish \$

SIGN UP REQUIRED,
SEE YOUR 1ST SGT. TO REGISTER
FOR THE FOLLOWING:

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Pie in the Face \$

Hot Dog Eating Contest

Tug-o-War

Obstacle Course

Pull Up Competition

Speed Pitch

Bounce Houses

and more!



Please join us for a day of fun, and feel free to dress up as your favorite princess, prince, king, queen, or any other royalty of your choice!

Contact Chief Master Sgt. Mark Smith, Master Sgt. Angie Vereb or Ms. Denise Lawson in the 507th MXG with questions.

OKIES RATE 'EFFECTIVE'



Citizen Airmen move bags for pre-deployment processing through the personnel deployment function line March 25, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. The 507th ARW was rated “effective” according the final Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone report, dated June 16, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

Story by Maj. Jon Quinlan

The Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General team rated the 507th Air Refueling Wing “effective” overall in the final Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone report released here June, 16, 2017.

The UEI capstone event validated local processes, evaluated the commander’s inspection program and conducted more than 320 interviews with Airmen here, March 30 – April 4, 2017.

Inspectors from various functional areas looked at four major graded areas including managing resources, leading people, improving the unit and executing the mission. All major areas were graded “effective.”

“I’d like to personally thank all of you for the hard work and preparation that

“THE 507TH STANDS READY TO ANSWER OUR NATION’S CALL.”

went into proving, once again, that the 507th stands ready to answer our nation’s call,” Col. Doug Gullion, 507th ARW commander said. “I’m incredibly proud of this wing.”

According to Air Force Instruction 90-201, The Air Force Inspection System, an ‘effective’ rating indicates mission requirements are met in all areas. The Commanders Inspection Program provides the command chain an accurate, adequate and relevant picture of unit performance; Resources are managed in an effective and compliant manner; A majority of units/programs across the wing have embraced a culture of self-



Col. Dana Nelson, 507th Air Refueling Wing vice commander greets Brig. Gen. Allan Swartzmiller, Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General at Tinker Air Force Base, March 30, 2017. The 507th ARW was rated “effective” according the final Unit Effectiveness Inspection Capstone report, dated June 16, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Jon Quinlan)

assessment.

The UEI capstone is one part of the Air Force Inspection Program. Under the current AFIS construct, IG visits focus on the local CCIP and the 507th ARW IG’s ability to inspect and accurately assess capabilities here. The AFRC inspection team validates the 507th ARW IG’s results and assists wing inspectors in specific areas that the wing commander has deemed important.

This is the second inspection the 507th ARW has conducted since the Air Force Inspection System process changed in 2013 to allow more local control and accountability.

Reservists process through the personnel deployment function line March 25, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/ Tech. Sgt. Charles Taylor)

SUPERIOR PERFORMERS

Master Sgt. Jo DeLorenzi,
507th CES
Staff Sgt. Karen Zuest,
507th FSS
Senior Airman Hunter Conatser,
507th CES
Senior Airman Clay Cox,
507th MXS

SUPERIOR TEAM

507th OSS, Intelligence Flight

Maj. Robert Cameron
Capt. Christopher Donnell
2nd Lt. Matthew Gregory
Senior Master Sgt. Pilbert Salon
Master Sgt. Joseph Johnson
Tech. Sgt. Brian Jackson
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Wright
Staff Sgt. Melissa Shepard
Senior Airman Richard Franz

MILITARY BEARING AWARD

Master Sgt. James Guy,
507th MDS
Staff Sgt. Tamila Metzger,
507th FSS
Senior Airman Michael Bentley,
507th FSS

FUTURE AVIATORS TAKE FLIGHT

Story by Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison



Future aviators from the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals receive an in-depth look at a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker here June 20, 2017. The young aviators observed how the Air Force Reserve directly fuels the fight through preparation, training and striving for combat-readiness during their three-hour long orientation flight. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

Twenty-seven future aviators from the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals took flight aboard a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker here June 20, 2017.

The teenagers observed as Citizen Airmen refueled three B-2 Spirit bombers as part of a week-long summer camp designed to highlight the myriad careers available in aviation.

Maj. Cory Glenn, OBAP Oklahoma City Aviation Career Education Academy director, planned and coordinated the student's orientation flight.

According to Glenn, who is also a 465th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot, OBAP is a nonprofit organization that seeks to encourage and support minorities in aviation and aerospace professions through mentoring, scholarships, training and youth-focused programs.

"In a short three hour orientation flight, the students witnessed how several different aviation career fields were instrumental in executing an important mission," Glenn said.

"They learned it takes precision from design engineers, air traffic controllers, boom operators, pilots, mechanics and countless others to execute each flight."

OBAP's resources helped shape his career in both the military and in the civilian sectors, and now he helps mentor future aviators to become top-tier applicants for various aerospace careers, he said.

Every year OBAP hosts an Aviation Career Education, or ACE, academy in 26 locations across the U.S. providing middle and high school kids weeklong immersion experiences in a variety of aviation and aerospace professions.



Tech. Sgt. Bobby Jackson, (top and right), 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, demonstrates refueling a B-2 Spirit bomber to Alexia Vence, an Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals student, while flying in a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker June 20, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photos/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)



“They learned it takes precision to execute each flight.”

Senior Master Sgt. Darby Perlin, 465th Air Refueling Squadron boom operator, demonstrates refueling a B-2 Spirit bomber to his son Garrett Perlin, an Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals student, while flying in a 507th Air Refueling Wing KC-135 Stratotanker here June 20, 2017. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

"The Oklahoma City ACE academy specifically targets students between the ages of 11-18," Glenn said. "We conduct science, technology, engineering and mathematics-oriented exercises and expose the students to military and civilian aviation careers."

The future aviators spent almost the entire day with Citizen Airmen Okies, beginning the day with informative briefings on the capabilities of the KC-135 from Capt. Ed Burnet, 465th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 pilot. The students also received safety briefings on the dangers of foreign object debris and other flight hazards.

The students then boarded the aircraft, and during the flight they had opportunities to visit the flight deck and observe the aerial refueling of B-2 Spirit bombers from the boom pod.

After landing, the teenagers shared some of their personal history, aspirations and their observations of their experience with the 507th ARW's Citizen Airmen.

"These students come from various backgrounds and some have had limited access to what goes on here at Tinker AFB," Glenn said. "It is very rewarding to see a student who isn't sure what they want to do have an experience that immediately inspires them to completely engage; turning a loose dream into a firm goal. These kids

have the potential of enhancing the diversity here at the

507th ARW."

Col. Dana Nelson, 507th ARW vice commander, said she hopes to inspire the youth to consider a career in aviation and the Air Force, because those who are pushing the upper limits of age must eventually move on and make way for the younger generation. "It is necessary to continue building a talent pool of Okie aviators," Nelson said.

“We can encourage people from all walks of life to consider aviation.”

"Using venues like ACE Academies are just one of the many ways we can encourage people from all walks of life to consider aviation and the Air Force as career choices. It's important to encourage diversity, because it's the reason we are the best Air Force in the world."

MEDIA FLIES WITH OKIE CREW



A KC-135 Stratotanker crew from the 507th Air Refueling Wing departs on a training mission to refuel a C-5 Galaxy aircraft June 9, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Media representatives from the Midwest City Beacon and Channel 9 News were invited to fly with the crew. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

WATCH THE NEWSCAST HERE



Tiffany Liou, Channel 9 News reporter, flies with a KC-135 Stratotanker crew from the 507th Air Refueling Wing June 9, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Liou saw first hand how Citizen Airmen fuel the mission for combat readiness. (Courtesy video/Tiffany Liou)



Pay at the Port

STREAMLINING MILITARY AIR TRAVEL

(U.S. Air Force image/Airman 1st Class William Tracy)

Story by Airman 1st Class William Tracy

Due to a recent Air Force Accounting and Finance Office directive, Airmen will now use their Government Travel Charge Card for MilAir travel related expenses.

The program, named “Pay at the Port”, is intended to simplify the electric billing process and eliminate the backroom accounting associated with military travel. It provides an upfront, streamlined process where funds are collected at the time of travel in the passenger terminal, as opposed to months or years later.

“In the past, finance individuals would run the funds and some people would be unaware of any charges,” said Master Sgt. Kathy Blake, 50th Comptroller Squadron superintendent. “The process was more systematic. Now it relies more on the individual.”

This change makes it important for Airmen to ensure their GTCC is in good order. This includes making sure GTCC’s are activated, cardholders know their personal identification number and have their credit limit costs increased if necessary to accommodate the changes in travel costs.

While official orders are accepted for payment at passenger terminals, problems with GTCC’s can cause significant delays to travel.

“If someone has a really low GTCC amount, it can be costly,” Blake said. “The traveler can be charged lodging as well as airfare and other charges; it’s important that their GTCC is increased and kept track of.”

Airmen are advised to consult their unit Agency Program Coordinator for any GTCC concerns and to ensure travel will go smoothly. Each GTCC card has a number included on it which will direct individuals to a help line which will try to

alleviate any problems encountered. At its core, the “Pay at the Port” system is intended to help eliminate any surprising or forgotten about charges brought about through the prolonged accounting processes.

It is expected to provide clarity to military travel, adding to the importance of making sure travel plans are good to go well before scheduled departure.

To find out more about the program, contact your local financial management office.



Airmen are to use their Government Travel Charge Card for MilAir related expenses due to a recent Air Force Accounting and Finance Office directive. The new policy is intended to simplify the billing process. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Amanda Delisle)



A CLOSER

LOOK

Master Sgt. Jon Russell

**AEROSPACE GROUND EQUIPMENT FLIGHT CHIEF,
507TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON**

Master Sgt. Jon Russell, 507th Maintenance Squadron aerospace ground equipment flight chief, stands for a photo July 6, 2017, at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Russell enjoys woodworking, taking road trips and staying in tune with everyone in his squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

WHAT IS A LITTLE KNOWN FACT ABOUT YOU?

I have a woodworking shop at my house where I create shadowboxes and furniture for my friends and family.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR FUN?

I like to take road trips because I get to see different parts of the country. Pisa, Italy, for instance, was an iconic place that I enjoyed travelling to.

AS A KID, WHAT WAS YOUR DREAM JOB?

I wanted to fly. Not be a pilot, per se, but I wanted to work with planes or an airline.

WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE MILITARY?

I joined in November of 1990. I figured my Grandpa did it, and so did my Dad, so I wanted to carry on the tradition.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER GOAL?

I would eventually like to be a squadron superintendent.

WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Getting to meet people from all walks of life and to hear their stories. It is a point of pride with me that I know every person in my squadron.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?

The Big Bang Theory because they're corny and that makes me laugh.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE?

Kids picking on kids. I can't stand it because I don't like it when kids get upset.

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE NEXT 'CLOSER LOOK'?

[EMAIL YOUR SUBMISSION HERE](#)



July PROMOTIONS

JUSTIN SPROLES, 513 AMXS
CHRISTOPHER WEBB, 507 LRS
SENIOR MASTER SERGEANT



JONATHON CRENSHAW, 507 SFS
DAVID WHISENHUNT, 507 SFS
BRIAN GUNTHER, 507 LRS
STEPHANIE HEATH, 507 FSS
CHRISTOHER PARKER, 513 AMXS
PRESTON GOHLKE, 507 CES
EDWARD MILLER, 513 MXS

MASTER SERGEANT



RAY SPANGLER, 507 AMXS
DANIEL WILLIAMS, 465 ARS
HOLLY WAY, 507 MXG
CORY STANLEY, 507 MXS
TAMILA METZGER, 507 FSS
TRAVIS FLANERY, 513 AMXS
MARY LY, 507 MXS
CHASE BLAIR, 507 CES
JOHN DOERSCHUK, 507 CES
KATIE JOHNSON, 507 CES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT



TRAVIS KRAUSE, 507 AMXS
KIRSTEN MILKOWSKI, 507 AMXS
NICHOLAS LUCAS, 970 AACS
NEIL SEUNATH, 507 MXG

STAFF SERGEANT



SAQUINN LEE, 507 SFS
ASHLEY AUTAURO, 513 MXS
RODERICK WARD, 970 AACS
TORI CHERRY, 507 LRS
KIE AIRA PERRY, 507 LRS

SENIOR AIRMAN



SAMUEL MURIUKI, 72 APS

AIRMAN



Leadership commentary **TRAIN HERE, FIGHT THERE**

By Col. Travis Caughlin,
Commander, 507th Maintenance Group

I recently participated in a commander's conference at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command highlighting the theme of providing combat-ready Airmen.

Senior leadership emphasized prioritizing activities and resources toward producing Airmen who are skilled in their occupational crafts. It was refreshing and motivating to hear this core purpose acknowledged by command leadership, staff and functional managers. However, the priority to produce combat ready Airmen and provide warfighting capability is nothing new to the audience of field commanders. Ironically, the more guidance and policies units receive sometimes inhibits their ability to optimize combat capability.

Fortunately, this was recognized at the highest Air Force level, prompting initiatives to revitalize squadrons as the most important warfighting elements. Plans to eliminate or reduce additional duties and recall outdated Air Force Instructions will take time to permeate. While higher organizational levels re-focus on the most important aspects of warfighting, we must also critically evaluate ourselves at the unit and ensure we have our priorities straight.

“Our professional reason for existing is to provide on-call combat power anywhere on the planet.”

Our professional reason for existing--job one--is to provide on-call combat power anywhere on the planet. All operations at our home station should, in theory, be in pursuit of that endeavor. It's imperative that the warfighters resist distraction from job one, even when policies and ancillary programs threaten to pull us in other directions.

We must be conscious of lapses in pursuing our warfighting purpose and getting lost in home station activities as their own end. We train and prepare “here,” so we can decisively fight, “over there.”

For Airmen in skill-level upgrade training, seize ev-



Col. Travis Caughlin, 507th Maintenance Group commander, poses for an official photo. (U.S. Air Force photo)

ery opportunity. If you're not getting the necessary training, raise the flag. Make no mistake: Commanders, supervisors and trainers owe you quality on-the-job training.

For those fully trained, continue to hone your skills, increase proficiency in your craft and train others. The Air Force provides opportunities for promotion, but our most important job is the job we have right now. Growing the next generation of leaders is a critical process in the profession of arms.

Beware the allure of “careerism,” or the decision to “be somebody” or “do something,” as described by John Boyd, one of the most influential thinkers in military airpower history. We are well-served to critically assess individual career aspirations against our obligation to defend the nation against those seeking to harm us. Despite being renowned for his contributions to warfare, Boyd famously resisted careerism and the status quo, retiring as a colonel while many of his peers advanced through the general officer ranks.

In the end, Colonel Boyd's staunch commitment to expertise in his warfighting craft changed the Air Force, making him more noteworthy than most, if not all, of those who surpassed him in rank.

I'm proud to be among you in raising our right hand and vowing to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Thanks for your commitment to what you do!

Facebook PHOTO CONTEST Top Shot!



(U.S. Air Force photo/1st Lt. Katie Head)



(U.S. Air Force photo/Maj. Cory Glenn)

Submit your favorite photos from around the wing to our Facebook page and we'll show the top shots here.

Here are the top photos from June.

Send us a message to submit your best photos at:

www.facebook.com/507arw



MyVector is an enterprise solution supporting force development and mentoring across the Air Force. It supports individual Airmen, career field managers and development teams. More than 120,000 Airmen have registered in MyVector and more than 15,000 Airmen have created a mentor profile. (Photo illustration/Vernon Greene)

Story by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright was a self-proclaimed undisciplined Airman during his first enlistment in the early 1990s...that is, until his mentor stepped in and provided the leadership he needed to set him on the right path.

Though that intervention was more than two decades ago, the importance of mentors has not changed across the Air Force – the service is still dedicated to developing the total force into well-rounded, mission-focused leaders.

“Leveraging the wisdom and experience of others enabled me to grow and achieve my goals faster,” said Chief Master Sgt. John Bentivegna, the Air Force Enlisted Force Development chief. “To this very day I have mentors who are both senior to me and who are peers, officers, civilians and enlisted.”

Whether an Airman stays in for four or 20 years, a mentor can help them reach their goals. Air Force mentors and mentees can connect on MyVector, a system on the Air Force

Portal.

“MyVector allows you to connect with a mentor if you have someone in mind,” said Dr. Patricia McGill, the Competencies, Doctrine and Mentoring Branch Force Development Integration Division chief. “Or if you just don’t know how to get a mentor, you can use the matching capability.”

Mentors can have four different roles: counselor, advocate, facilitator and coach, according to McGill.

“If you want the mission to be successful, you have to cultivate your people,” McGill said.

The Air Force’s mentor program focuses on the mentee, and pairs them with the best mentor match.

The introduction of Air Force Manual 36-2684 only helps further through its comprehensive information, guidelines and expectations both personal and professional development.

For more information about the mentor process visit <https://afvec.langley.af.mil/myvector>

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507th mourns civil engineer

Story by 507th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

A senior non-commissioned officer in the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron here passed away June 9, 2017 at his home in Pawnee, Okla.

Senior Master Sgt. John Schulze, former superintendent of the pavement and construction section, 507th CES, served a combined 32 years in the Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. He served with distinction, and deployed in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

Schulze is survived by his wife, Lera; his eldest son, Ethan, and his wife Jessica and their daughter, Katarina; and his youngest son, Ryan.

“Our heartfelt sympathies and condolences go out to the Schulze family,” said 507th CES commander, Maj. Kenneth Joseph. “We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss and are here for the family and friends during this difficult time.”

Instead of flowers, the family requested that donations be made to Christ Lutheran Church in Perry or to the National Veteran's Foundation.

“The 507th Air Refueling Wing mourns the loss of a valued member of our Okie team and we extend our deepest condolences,” said 507th Air Refueling Wing commander, Col. Douglas Gullion. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.”

Anyone needing assistance or someone to talk to can contact a 507th Air Refueling Wing chaplain at 405-229-0473, or the Director of Psychological Health, Jacqie Falkner, at 580-649-8393. To speak to a chaplain in person, the 72nd Air Base Wing chaplain can be reached at 405-734-2111.

Schulze was born in 1963 in Stillwater, Oklahoma. He grew up in a military family; his father was a World War II veteran and his brother served in Vietnam.



Senior Master Sgt. John Schulze, former 507th Civil Engineer Squadron pavement and construction superintendent, retires after 32 combined years in the Air Force, the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve, June 4, 2017, Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samantha Mathison)

“We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss.”

The youngest of four boys, he grew up on a farm, played football and excelled in agricultural activities. He graduated from Pawnee High School in Pawnee, Oklahoma, in 1982.

Schulze graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from Oklahoma State University in 1987. He was a member of the OSU Air Force Reserve Officer

Training Corps program, earning the distinction of outstanding freshman cadet. Schulze was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Force on active duty in July 1987.

While in college, John met his wife, Lera, and together they transferred to Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, California, so John could start navigator training.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, he was unable to complete navigator training, so he decided to enlist to serve his country. In 1989, Airman First Class Schulze completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, followed by construction equipment operator training school at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he earned the

distinction of being selected as the red rope for his squadron.

In 1989, he was assigned to the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, Spangdahlem Air Force Base, Germany, where he was promoted early, or “below the zone,” to senior airman. He assisted the 52nd CES in earning the Curtis LeMay CE Award, one of the highest honors for rapid runway repair in U.S. Air Forces Europe.

In 1992, Senior Airman Schulze joined the 823rd Red Horse Expeditionary Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Florida. Schulze assisted with the humanitarian mission, Hurricane Andrew Cleanup, in 1992, completed asphalt paving projects in Newport News, Virginia, and served as vehicle NCOIC in support of squadron operations at Diego Garcia and in Mogadishu, Somalia.

In 1994, he transferred to the 138th Civil Engineer Squadron, Tulsa Air National Guard Base, Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he promoted to staff sergeant.

He was called to duty in 1996 to help recover the wreckage of a Tulsa Air National Guard fighter jet that crashed not far from an elementary school in Skiatook, Okla. Schulze participated in more than 25 operational readiness exercises and inspections in Gulfport, Mississippi, 1998-2011, and assisted his squadron in achieving several excellent ratings throughout the years, which also included eight trips to the Silver Flag exercise site in Florida.

In 1998, Schulze promoted to technical sergeant and was selected as NCO of the Year for the 138th CES. Schulze deployed to Sembach and Ramstein Air Bases in Germany, to Dover Air Base, Delaware, and performed joint exercises with British Forces in Waterford, England. In 2000, Schulze deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, as a crane operator, where he helped refurbish the security systems of the base and supported the U-2 reconnaissance flying mission.

While stationed in Saudi Arabia, Schulze was attached to the 363rd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, which received a Distinguished Unit with Valor



Members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing render a final salute during the funeral of Senior Master Sgt. John Schulze of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron June 16, 2017, at the Highland Cemetery in Pawnee, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

Award. Schulze then deployed to San Diego to support security operations and road and fence maintenance for the U.S. southern border wall.

In 2003, Schulze promoted to master sergeant. In 2007, he deployed to Nevatim Air Base, Israel, where his unit assisted the Israeli military in a land reclamation project and the construction of an F-16 munitions facility.

In August 2011, Master Sergeant Schulze and his youngest son, Ryan, enlisted in the Air Force Reserve, joining the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron. He immediately volunteered for an operational readiness inspection to Alpena, Michigan, where he completed the mission and helped the group receive an excellent rating.

In 2013, Schulze promoted to senior master sergeant, taking on responsibility as superintendent over the heavy equipment and structures shop of the 507th CES. With the 507th, Schulze worked with the Field Engineering Readiness Laboratory

at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and led annual training to Mississippi and at YMCA of the Rockies.

Senior Master Sgt. Schulze graduated from Senior NCO Leadership School at Tinker and Senior NCO Academy via correspondence.

Schulze's decorations include: The Air Force Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Force Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor with three oak leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with 'N' Device; the Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long; the Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon; Air Force Longevity Service; the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Rifle); and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.”

Staff Sgt. Ryan Schulze, 507th Civil Engineer Squadron, renders a final salute during the funeral of his father, Senior Master Sgt. John Schulze of the 507th Civil Engineer Squadron June 16, 2017, at the Highland Cemetery in Pawnee, Okla. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Lauren Gleason)

